

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 4 August 2009

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Conference Room 401
Department of Health

ATTENDANCE:

Name	Present	Absent	Excused
Committee-I			
Victoria Almeida, Esq. (Vice Chair)			X
Edward F. Almon	X		
Joseph V. Centofanti, MD		X	
John W. Flynn	X		
Wallace Gernt	X		
Amy Lapierre	X		
Steven Lonardo	X		
Thomas M. Madden, Esq.	X		
Robert Quigley, DC (Chairman)	X		
Robert Ricci		X	
Robert Whiteside		X	

Staff: Valentina Adamova, MBA, Michael K. Dexter, MPA, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Michael Varadian, JD, MBA

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM. The Chair noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. Minutes of the Project Review Committee-I meetings of 2, 11, 16 and 23 June 2009 were adopted as submitted. A motion was made, seconded and passed by a vote of seven in favor, and none opposed (7-0) that the availability of minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame as provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almon, Flynn, Gernt, Lapierre, Lonardo, Madden, Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of **Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island** [Care New England Health Systems] for a Certificate of Need to acquire a da Vinci Si Robotic System to offer minimally invasive gynecologic procedures.

Dr. Bandera, GYN oncology physician at W & I, presented the PowerPoint presentation. She noted that robotic surgery is becoming the standard of care. She reviewed the advantages to the physician in operating robotically. She noted cases where patients would not qualify for laparoscopy but could be operated on robotically. She identified institutions in Massachusetts and Connecticut that utilize the da Vinci unit. She noted that the unit at Miriam Hospital is being shared and that this limits the ability of W & I's physicians to schedule all qualifying patients for robotic surgery.

Committee members raised questions regarding the cost effectiveness of the robotic surgery versus laparoscopy, the percent of total procedures that would be conducted on the da Vinci unit and information regarding the volume of procedures currently being performed on Miriam's unit.

The Chair requested and the applicant agreed to schedule a demonstration of the unit before the Committee. The Chair noted that the applicant will receive follow up questions.

The applicant extended an invitation to the Health Services Council to conduct a site visit on 17 August 2009 to tour the new building constructed as part of the a previously approved Certificate of Need application.

Mr. Gernt requested that a site visit be conducted to Bradley Hospital to view their new building.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova, MBA
Health Economics Specialist